

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05957 290928Z

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5196

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5957

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR XO CH

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 123690

1. USLO PEKING HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE COMMENT ON PRC ATTITUDES TOWARDS DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION.

2. THE LATEST, HIGH-LEVEL REFERENCES WHICH WE CAN LOCATE CONCERNING DIEGO GARCIA WAS BY CHIAO KUAN-HUA IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA ON OCTOBER 2, 1974. WHILE DISCUSSING THE SUBCONTINENT AND THE PAKISTANI NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH ASIA HE SAID: "THE TWO SUPERPOWERS ARE COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER IN SETTING UP MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, SOME OF WHICH ARE OVERT BASES WHILE OTHERS ARE COVERT ONES, NOMINALLY FOR CIVILIAN BUT ACTUALLY FOR MILITARY USE. THE TURBULENT SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN CALLS FOR VIGILANCE."

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PAGE 02 HONG K 05957 290928Z

3. AT A LATER UNGA DISCUSSION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE

ZONE CONCEPT ON NOVEMBER 12, 1974, PRC DELEGATE LIN FANG SPOKE OF THE US AS HAVING MADE "TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO AUGMENT ITS MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND EXPAND ITS MILITARY BASES THERE." LIN CONTINUED ON TO CALL FOR "AN END TO THE TWO SUPERPOWERS' MILITARY EXPANSION AND CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY IN THE REGION AND DISMANTLE ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND INSTALLATIONS THERE."

4. DIEGO GARCIA PER SE HAS NOT BEEN A PARTICULAR PROBLEM FOR THE CHINESE ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY MADE REFERENCES SUCH AS THE ABOVE TO SUPERPOWER CONTENTION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRIMARY CHINESE CONCERN LIES WITH SOVIET ENCROACHMENT INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT PRIVATELY THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH ANY AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO OPPOSE SUCH SOVIET MOVES. THUS THE CHINESE HAVE NOT CONDEMNED THE DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT SPECIFICALLY AND ARE UNLIKELY TO DO SO.

5. FOR A MORE COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF PEKING'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE INDIAN OCEAN, HONG KONG 5195 OF MAY 9, 1974, STILL REMAINS VALID.

CROSS

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